



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/935,610	08/24/2001	Huiping Li	37112-173148	8980

7590 01/25/2005

Venable
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, DC 20043-9998

EXAMINER

BRIER, JEFFERY A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2672

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/935,610	Applicant(s) LI ET AL.	
	Examiner Jeffery A Brier	Art Unit 2672	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 29-34 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 22-28 and 35-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2672

Detailed Action

1. The Examiner in charge of this application has changed to Primary Examiner Jeffery A. Brier who may be reached at 703-305-4723.

Response to Amendment

2. The amendment filed on 8/9/2004 has been entered.

Response to Argument

3. Applicants arguments as they may apply to the new grounds of rejection are not persuasive because the newly discovered Chen article, Text Extraction in Videos using Topographical Features of Characters, teaches determining text overlayed upon video. The article also teaches initially determining an overlay then verifying the overlay. Similarly the newly discovered Antani article, Robust Extraction of Text in Video, teaches detecting static overlays on video by performing a frame to frame comparison of the video. The article also teaches initially determining an overlay then performing more processing to verify the overlay.

Specification

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: in paragraph 0034 at line 1 figure 11 is incorrect because a figure 11 is not present in the drawings. Perhaps applicant intended to make reference to figure 10 since in paragraph 0034 at line 11 makes reference to figure 10.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is not clear if the claimed phrase 'a computer-readable medium containing software embodying the method of claim 4' causes the computer to implement the method of detecting a pre-existing overlay. If it does not then the claim would only be storing a program rather than implementing the method of claim 4. It would in essence be storing descriptive data. See MPEP 2106. Applicant could amend this claim to claim "a computer-readable medium storing computer executable code for causing the computer to implement the method of claim 4" or use similar language.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1-3, 22, 23, 26, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Byung Tae Chen, Younglae Bae, Tai-Yun Kim, Text Extraction in Videos

using Topographical Features of Characters, August 22-25, 1999, IEEE, vol. 2, pages 1126-1130.

This article teaches extracting text from video by two main steps of extracting candidate areas using topographical features and then verifying text is in those areas. Section 3.1 discusses extracting candidate area for text area and section 3.2 discusses verification of candidates of text area.

A detailed analysis of the claims follows.

Claim 1:

Chen teaches a method of video processing (*See introduction.*)

comprising:

extracting a pre-existing overlay present in a video sequence (*See the introduction, paragraph 1 which discusses text appearing in video such as news where is often used to identify people, see figure 2, and to place identifying marks, see the upper left and lower right corners of figure 2.*) said extracting comprising:

detecting at least one potential overlay in the video sequence (*Section 3.1 discusses extracting candidate area for text area.*); and

verifying that the at least one potential overlay is at least one actual overlay (*section 3.2 discusses verification of candidates of text area.*).

Claim 2:

Chen teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising the step of post-processing at least one actual overlay to remove extraneous pixels (*Figure 1 shows the post*

processing step of removing noise. Noise comprises extraneous pixels such as non-character regions inside the character regions, see section 3.3, thus, Chen teaches removing extraneous pixels.).

Claim 3:

Chen teaches the method of claim 2, wherein said step of post-processing comprises the steps of:

computing a variance for each pixel of the at least one actual overlay (*Section 3.3 discusses removing noise by using Isodata color clustering. The verified actual overlay area is analyzed to determine the color of each pixel to cluster the pixels in the overlay area.); and*
comparing the variance with a threshold to determine whether or not the pixel should be removed as an extraneous pixel (*The size of the color clusters are compared and if they are too small the cluster is removed which removes the pixels forming each cluster.).*

Claim 22:

Chen teaches the method of Claim 1, wherein said step of detecting comprises the step of:

performing template matching to determine the presence of a potential overlay
(*Section 2 and 3.1 discusses using the topological features of characters to determine the presence of a potential overlay.*

Art Unit: 2672

Topological features of characters define a template for each character or groups of characters.).

Claim 23:

Chen teaches the method of claim 22, wherein said step of detecting further comprises the step of:

determining a template (The paragraph before section 3 discusses determine n and alpha. The values of n and alpha form a template.) to be used in said step of performing template matching.

Claim 26:

Chen teaches a computer readable medium containing software embodying the method of claim 1 (*Chen discusses using a computer to perform the text extraction in section 4. The discussed Pentium 4 computer using a program written in Visual C++ Ver. 5.0 has the program stored in a computer readable medium, the disk drive and RAM.*).

Claim 27:

Chen teaches a computer system comprising:

a computer (Chen discusses using a Pentium 4 computer to perform the text extraction in section 4.); and

Art Unit: 2672

a computer readable medium containing software embodying the method of claim 1
(Chen discusses using a computer to perform the text extraction in section 4. The discussed Pentium 4 computer using a program written in Visual C++ Ver. 5.0 has the program stored in a computer readable medium, the disk drive and RAM).

9. Claims 1, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 35-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by S. Antani, D. Crandall, R. Kasturi, Robust Extraction of Text in Video, Sept 3-7, 2000, IEEE, vol. 1, pages 931-834.

This article teaches detecting static overlays on video by performing a frame to frame comparison of the video. In the section 3, second paragraph at lines 7-11 "artificial caption text" and "scene text occurring naturally in a video frame" is discussed.

A detailed analysis of the claims follows.

Claim 1:

Antani teaches a method of video processing (*See introduction.*) comprising:

extracting a pre-existing overlay present in a video sequence (*See the introduction, paragraph 1 second column which discusses text appearing in video.*) said extracting comprising:

detecting at least one potential overlay in the video sequence (*Section 2 discusses three stages, the detection, localization, and*

Art Unit: 2672

segmentation stages. The detection stage detects a potential overlay.); and

verifying that the at least one potential overlay is at least one actual overlay (Section 2 discusses the localization stage which uses many methods to localize the text. Section 2 discusses using many different localization algorithms whose outputs are fused in the spatio-temporal decision fusion module over multiple frames to verify that a potential text is text. Section 2 also discusses using a tracking stage, this would inherently verify the potential text is an actual text.).

Claim 22:

Antani teaches the method of Claim 1, wherein said step of detecting comprises the step of:

performing template matching to determine the presence of a potential overlay
(Section 2 discusses the detection of potential overlay in the detection stage which consists of many different localization algorithms whose outputs are fused in the spatio-temporal decision fusion module over multiple frames. In order to determine if text exists then predefined knowledge of the text is compared with the current image to determine if a match exists. Predefined knowledge of the text is a template.).

Art Unit: 2672

Claim 23:

Antani teaches the method of claim 22, wherein said step of detecting further comprises the step of:

determining a template to be used in said step of performing template matching

(Inherently at some time the templates used by the program were determined.).

Claim 24:

Antani teaches the method of claim 22, wherein said step of verifying comprises the steps of:

performing frame-to-frame correlation of said potential overlay *(Section 2 discusses using many different localization algorithms whose outputs are fused in the the spatio-temporal decision fusion module over multiple frames.); and*

comparing a result of the frame-to-frame correlation with a threshold to determine if the potential overlay is an actual overlay or not *(In order to determine if text exists then predefined knowledge of the text is compared with the current image to determine if a match exists. Predefined knowledge of the text is a template of thresholds.).*

Claim 25:

Antani teaches the method of claim 24, wherein said step of performing frame-to-frame correlation (*See the discussion above for claim 24.*) comprises the steps of:

forming a mean square error over a set of frames from said video sequence, averaged over all of the pixels in said potential overlay (*This claim does not claim a use for the mean square error, thus, a reference that forms a mean square error over a set of frames teaches the claim. This claim does not claim how the mean square error is formed, thus, a reference that inherently forms the error teaches the claim. The specification in paragraph 0039 sets forth a specific formula for calculating the mean square error, however, the claim only broadly claims how the claimed mean square error is calculated. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See In re Van Geuns, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The disclosed formula determines the average difference in intensities between a current frame and a subsequent frame. Antani inherently forms the mean square error since Antani in the localization stage fuses over several frames decisions from many localization algorithms which inherently has determined the*

Art Unit: 2672

average difference in intensities between frames in order to determine if text exists.).

Claim 35:

Antani teaches a method of processing video, comprising:

extracting a pre-existing graphical (In the section 3 second paragraph lines 7-11 "artificial caption text" and "scene text occurring naturally in a video frame" is discussed. Artificial caption text is graphical because graphical includes many objects including text.) overlay present in a video sequence, said extracting comprising:

detecting at least one potential overlay in a the video sequence (Section 2 discusses three stages, the detection, localization, and segmentation stages. The detection stage detects a potential overlay.), said detecting comprising the step of:

performing template matching (Section 2 discusses the detection of potential overlay in the detection stage which consists of many different localization algorithms whose outputs are fused in the spatio-temporal decision fusion module over multiple frames. In order to determine if text exists then predefined knowledge of the text is compared with the current image to determine if a match exists. Predefined knowledge of the text is a template.);

and

Art Unit: 2672

verifying that the at least one potential overlay is at least one actual overlay (*Section 2 discusses the localization stage which uses many methods to localize the text. Section 2 discusses using many different localization algorithms whose outputs are fused in the the spatio-temporal decision fusion module over multiple frames to verify that a potential text is text. Section 2 also discusses using a tracking stage, this would inherently verify the potential text is an actual text.*), said verifying comprising the step of: performing frame-to-frame correlation of a potential overlay determined by said detecting step (*Section 2 discusses using many different localization algorithms whose outputs are fused in the spatio-temporal decision fusion module over multiple frames.*).

Claim 36:

Antani teaches the method of Claim 35, wherein said step of detecting further comprises the step of:

determining a template to be used in said step of performing template matching (*Inherently at some time the templates used by the program were determined.*).

Art Unit: 2672

Claim 37:

Antani teaches the method of Claim 36, wherein said step of determining a template comprises the step of:

performing addition or frame-by-frame subtraction of video frames (*This claim does not define the specifics of the addition of video frames or the frame-by-frame subtraction of video frames. This claim does not state if pixel values are added or frame numbers are added or if as in Antani the results of many frame analyses are fused or added or subtracted.*). This step does not state what function the addition or subtraction performs, thus, the scope of the claim is broad and is met by Antani when a template for detection stage is determined since the claim does not claim when the template is determined and when the addition or subtraction is performed. Therefore in this comprising claim all that is needed is for the reference to teach the claimed steps.

Claim 38:

Antani teaches the method of Claim 36, wherein said step of determining a template comprises the steps of:

segmenting video frames into foreground and background objects (*Text is foreground and video is the background. See the Abstract at the next to last and last sentences. Section 1 second paragraph lines 8-9.*);

Art Unit: 2672

performing correlation tracking to determine if any foreground object remains in the same absolute location in each video frame (*Section 2 discusses using many different localization algorithms whose outputs are fused in the spatio-temporal decision fusion module over multiple frames to verify that a potential text is text. In the last sentence of section 2 the article teaches due to the fact that text lasts over several frames the text may be determined. The Abstract at the last sentence teaches determining if the text is static.*).

This step does not state what function the segmenting and correlation tracking performs, thus, the scope of the claim is broad and the claim does not claim when the template is determined and when the segmenting and correlation tracking is performed. Therefore in this comprising claim all that is needed is for the reference to teach the claimed steps.

Prior Art

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Byung Tae Chen, Younglae Bae, Tai-Yun Kim, Automatic Text Extraction in Digital Videos using FFT and Neural Network, August 22-25, 1999, IEEE, vol. 2, pages 1112-1115. This article teaches extracting text from video by two main steps of extracting candidate areas using FFT characteristics of text and a neural network and then verifying text is in those areas. Section 3.1 discusses extracting candidate area for

text area by using the neural network and FFT to extract text and section 3.2 discusses verification of candidates of text area.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 4-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 28 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
12. Claims 29-34 are allowed.
13. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 4-21 and 28-34:

The prior of record fails to teach or suggest detecting the potential overlay by using wavelet decomposition on the video sequence, extracting features based on the wavelet decomposition, and performing neural network processing on the extracted features.

Art Unit: 2672

14. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffery A Brier whose telephone number is 703-305-4723 until the move and after the move the number will be 703-571-7656. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 6:30 to 3:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi, can be reached at (703) 305-4713). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

Art Unit: 2672

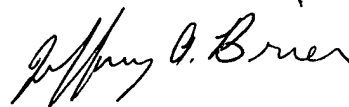
published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffery A. Brier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jeffery A Brier
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2672